

# 2 BE or not 2 BE Reproducible: The Belgian Reproducibility Network as part of the European Network of Reproducibility Networks



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## What is a Reproducibility Network?

A strategic community effort to promote transparent and trustworthy research practices in the academic research system:

- Recognizes the need to **constantly evaluate and improve research** practices with the aim to conduct research of the highest quality and embedded within a collaborative and transparent research culture
- Recognizes the need for **flexibility**; different disciplines, institutions and countries will face different challenges and have different needs
- Reproducibility Networks are all **structured along broadly similar lines** to facilitate this coordination function, whilst allowing national and local flexibility
- The term reproducibility is used as an umbrella term that includes **open science practices, computational reproducibility, replicability, transparency, and accessibility of scientific work.**

## The Belgian Reproducibility Network

The Belgian Reproducibility Network **BE-RN** was launched in November 2022, with the mission to support reproducibility in all academic disciplines in the Belgian research landscape.

It is modelled after existing reproducibility networks such as the UK-RN, the Swiss RN, and the German RN.

The BE-RN consists of a national steering group and an international advisory board but is based on the grassroots activities of **local nodes** increasingly active within different Belgian universities.

The aims:

- **Support** researchers striving to improve their own scientific practices
- **Unite** already existing initiatives
- **Become a voice** in support of reproducibility in contact with universities, funding bodies, academies, and other scientific organisations.

### The Student BE-RN

A particular initiative just getting started at the ULB is the student BE-RN. Involving students will allow us to better understand how we can support the next generation of researchers and contribute to improved scientific understanding in the professional population.

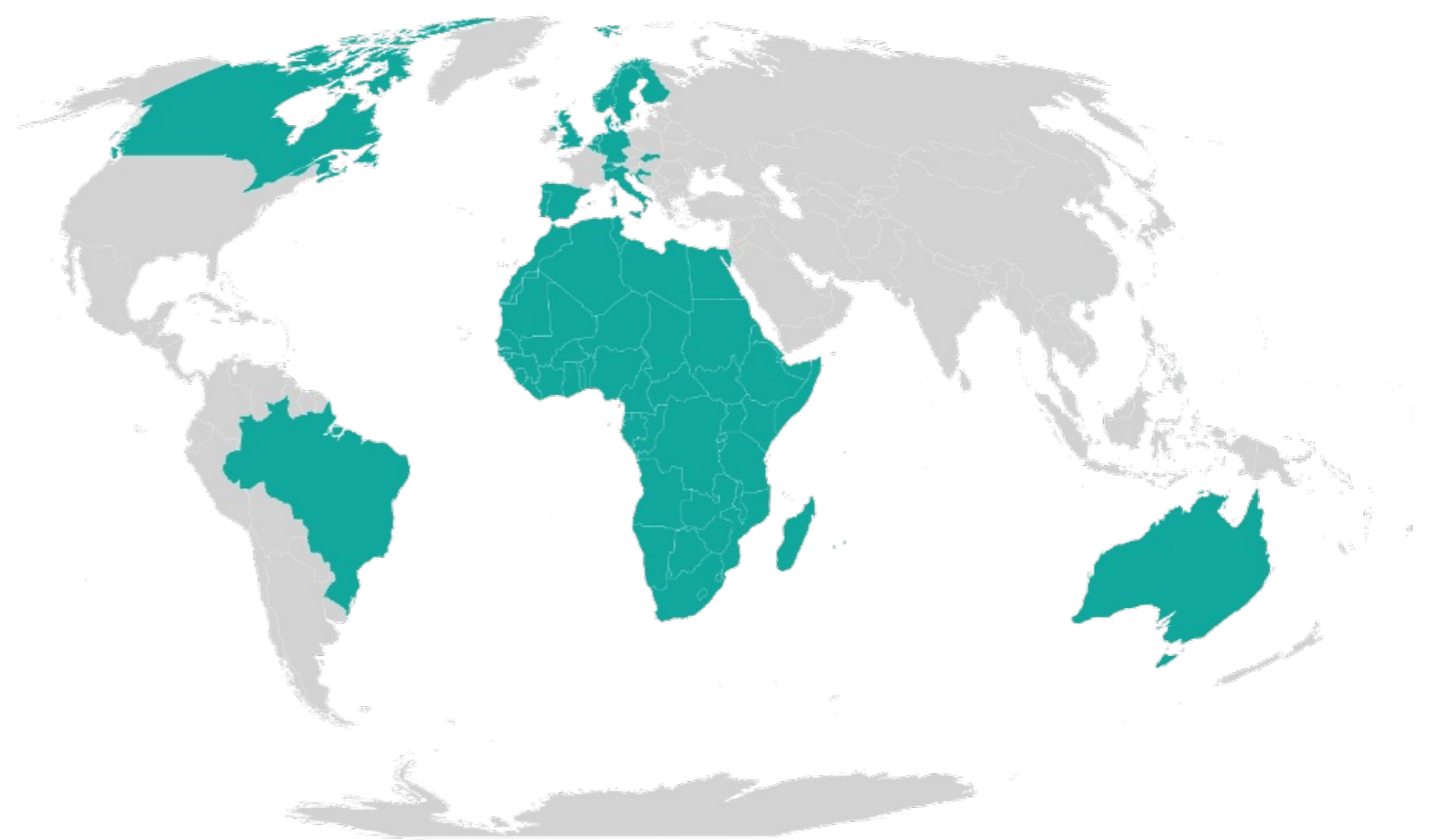
## Creating Connections

### International contact

The BE-RN is part of the international movement of Reproducibility Networks, actively working together and learning from each other.

Some networks, such as the UK-RN, are already fully formed and funded, with high interdisciplinarity between its members.

Regular meetings allow for exchange on best practices, but also to identify and apply to funding opportunities



### National contact

We aim to facilitate connexions between existing initiatives such as the Data Ambassadors and the ReproducibiliTea journal clubs, but also between researchers interested in reproducibility across institutions.

### Institutional connections

The BE-RN lives because of its local nodes spread across Belgium. Our current local nodes are active at KU Leuven, ULiège, UCLouvain, ULB, and UGent.

All members and contributors of the BE-RN are involved as **volunteers**:

- This is our **strength**: it allows for independence and flexibility from institutional regulations
- It is also a **difficulty**: we have to prioritize our day-to-day work over our involvement in the BE-RN.

## Participating in the BE-RN

Do you want to find out more about the BE-RN? Visit:



or contact us via [info@reproducibilitynetwork.be](mailto:info@reproducibilitynetwork.be)